Transnational Ties: Examining the Dynamics of Filipina to US Marriage Migration

Douglas C. Youvan

doug@youvan.com

April 22, 2024

"Transnational Ties: Examining the Dynamics of Filipina to US Marriage Migration" delves into the multifaceted phenomenon of marriage-driven migration from the Philippines to the United States. This paper explores the rich tapestry of economic, legal, sociocultural, and personal dimensions that frame these migrations. Through a comprehensive analysis, we seek to understand the motivations driving Filipina women to marry American men and the subsequent impacts on both their lives and the broader communities. We investigate the complex interplay of agency, cultural adaptation, and the inherent challenges within these transnational unions. Furthermore, the paper scrutinizes the roles of legal frameworks and community support systems in shaping the migration experience. By providing a nuanced perspective on these cross-cultural marriages, this study contributes to the ongoing discussions on global migration, gender dynamics, and transnational relationships, offering insights into both the opportunities and obstacles faced by these couples.

Keywords: Filipina marriage migration, transnational relationships, U.S. immigration law, cultural adaptation, socio-economic impacts, gender dynamics, community support, legal challenges, Filipina-American marriages.

Introduction

Overview of Filipina to US Marriage Migration Trends

Filipina to US marriage migration is a significant aspect of the broader patterns of migration from the Philippines to the United States, a phenomenon that has deep historical roots but has evolved significantly in recent decades. This migration often occurs in the context of transnational marriages, where Filipina women marry U.S. citizens. These unions typically facilitate the migration of Filipina spouses to the U.S. and are influenced by a combination of personal, economic, and cultural factors. The United States hosts one of the largest populations of Filipinos outside the Philippines, with a substantial portion of these individuals arriving through marriage-based visas. Over the years, these migrations have not only shaped the demographic landscape of Filipino communities in the U.S. but also impacted the social structures in both the host and home countries.

Key Research Questions and Objectives of the Paper

This paper aims to explore several key research questions to better understand the dynamics of Filipina to US marriage migration:

1. What motivates Filipina women to engage in transnational marriages with American men?
2. How do the legal and socio-economic frameworks of both the Philippines and the U.S. influence these migrations?
3. What are the cultural, social, and economic impacts on the women who migrate and the families left behind?
4. How do power dynamics and gender roles manifest within these transnational marriages?
5. In what ways do these marriages challenge or reinforce existing stereotypes and cultural narratives?

The objective of this research is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the trends, motivations, implications, and outcomes of Filipina to US marriage

migrations. By examining both the macro and micro aspects of these migrations, the paper seeks to contribute to the broader discourse on global migration, gender, and transnational relationships.

Importance of Examining Both Partners in Transnational Marriages

Understanding the dynamics of transnational marriages requires a balanced examination of both partners involved in the relationship. While much of the existing research focuses on the migrating Filipina spouse, the role and perspectives of the American partner are equally crucial for a holistic understanding. Examining both partners allows for an exploration of mutual expectations, shared responsibilities, and the interplay of cultural differences. This dual perspective is essential to dissect the complex interdependencies that characterize these marriages, including the emotional, financial, and social exchanges that define them.

Moreover, by considering both spouses, this paper aims to move beyond simplistic narratives of victimhood or exploitation, instead highlighting the agency, choices, and compromises made by both individuals. This approach is key to understanding the nuanced ways in which these couples navigate their transnational unions, adapt to shifting cultural landscapes, and negotiate power within their relationships. Ultimately, this balanced analysis will contribute to a more empathetic and comprehensive understanding of Filipina to US marriage migrations, providing insights into the broader implications for immigration policy and multicultural societies.

Historical Context and Motivations

Historical Background of Migration from the Philippines to the United States

The history of migration from the Philippines to the United States has its roots in the early 20th century, beginning with the U.S. colonization of the Philippines in 1898. This colonial relationship facilitated the first significant waves of Filipino migrants, who primarily arrived as students, soldiers, and laborers. The Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1934, which promised Philippine independence, paradoxically restricted Filipino immigration, but post-World War II amendments to U.S. immigration laws in 1946 and the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 opened new doors, allowing more Filipinos to enter the U.S. for education and professional opportunities.

In the latter half of the 20th century, the migration pattern shifted significantly towards family reunification and marriage. The advent of the internet and the globalization of economies also saw a rise in international matchmaking industries and online dating, which have played substantial roles in the increase of Filipina to US marriage migration. These unions became a prominent pathway for Filipinas seeking new opportunities, and for American men interested in partners they perceived as sharing more "traditional" values.

Economic, Social, and Cultural Motivations for Marriage Migration

Economic Motivations: For many Filipinas, marriage migration is seen as a strategy for economic improvement. The Philippines, despite its growing economy, still faces significant challenges such as unemployment and underemployment. Marrying an American and moving to the U.S. is often viewed as an opportunity for a better standard of living, not just for the women themselves but also for their families back home through remittances. These economic benefits are a primary driver, considering the

substantial difference in living standards and wages between the two countries.

Social Motivations: Socially, marriage migration can be seen as a means of achieving higher social status. In many parts of the Philippines, being associated with a foreigner can elevate a family's social standing. Additionally, there are perceived social benefits in terms of stability, security, and the prospect of raising a family in a context with better healthcare, education, and social services. This perspective is often reinforced by the success stories circulated within local communities and through social media.

Cultural Motivations: Culturally, the Philippines is significantly influenced by the West, particularly by American culture due to the historical colonial ties. This influence manifests in a familiarity and aspiration towards American lifestyle and values. Furthermore, the concept of "romantic love" that pervades American cultural representations of marriage can be appealing, contrasting with other more pragmatic traditional marriage arrangements in Asia. Additionally, the Catholic Church's strong presence in the Philippines, where divorce is still illegal, may also play a role in the permanence and desirability of marriage as a bond, particularly one that leads to opportunities abroad.

Collectively, these factors create a complex tapestry of motivations driving Filipina women to seek spouses in the United States, each interwoven with personal ambitions, familial responsibilities, and broader socio-economic aspirations. These migrations are not merely transactions but are embedded in a history of colonial and post-colonial exchanges, modern global dynamics, and the continual interplay of economic, social, and cultural shifts.

Legal Frameworks

Overview of U.S. Immigration Laws Pertinent to Marriage Migration

The legal landscape for Filipina to U.S. marriage migration is primarily governed by U.S. immigration laws that facilitate the entry and residency of non-U.S. citizens through marriage to American citizens. Key components include the K-1 fiancé(e) visa and the CR-1/IR-1 spousal visas. These legal pathways are designed to uphold the integrity of the immigration system while also recognizing the genuine relationships that cross international borders.

1. **K-1 Fiancé(e) Visa**: This visa allows a non-U.S. citizen engaged to an American citizen to enter the United States, but it requires the marriage to take place within 90 days of entry. The couple must have met in person at least once in the previous two years unless they meet a strict exemption. This visa is particularly popular among couples who have not yet legalized their union but plan to do so in the U.S.
2. **CR-1/IR-1 Spousal Visa**: These visas are for already married couples where one partner is a non-U.S. citizen. The CR-1 visa is issued to spouses of U.S. citizens who have been married for less than two years and grants conditional residency, whereas the IR-1 is for those married longer than two years and grants immediate permanent residency.

Process of Acquiring Visas and Residency Through Marriage

The process of obtaining these visas involves several steps, which are designed to verify the legitimacy of the marriage and the intentions of the migrating spouse:

- **Petition Filing**: The U.S. citizen spouse must first file a petition with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on

behalf of their non-U.S. citizen fiancé(e) or spouse. This includes submitting proof of the relationship and marriage (if applicable), financial documents, and other personal information.
- **Visa Application**: Upon approval of the petition, the non-U.S. citizen applies for the visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate in the Philippines. This stage involves a medical examination, visa interview, and submission of further documentation, such as evidence of financial support, police certificates, and proof of genuine engagement or marriage.
- **Adjustment of Status**: Once in the U.S., the spouse or fiancé(e) can adjust their status to permanent resident by filing an application with USCIS. For those who entered on a K-1 visa, the marriage must occur before filing this application.

Legal Challenges and Barriers Faced by Migrating Spouses

Migrating spouses face several legal challenges and barriers throughout this process:

- **Proving Relationship Legitimacy**: Couples must provide extensive documentation to prove their relationship is genuine and not solely for the purpose of immigration benefits. This can be particularly scrutinizing for couples with significant age differences or those who have not spent much time physically together.
- **Financial Requirements**: The U.S. citizen must demonstrate the ability to financially support the spouse. This involves meeting income requirements set by federal guidelines, which can be a barrier for lower-income citizens.
- **Legal Complexities and Delays**: The process can be fraught with bureaucratic delays and complexities, with applications sometimes taking months or even years to process. These delays can create significant emotional and financial strain on couples.
- **Adjustment of Status**: Navigating the adjustment of status can also be challenging, especially if complications arise, such as the need for

legal representation in cases of denied applications or the requirement to remove conditions on residence.

These legal frameworks and processes are designed to manage the flow of immigrants entering the U.S. through marriage, but they also reflect broader national concerns about immigration, security, and the integrity of familial relationships crossing borders. Understanding these legalities is crucial for anyone considering transnational marriage as a pathway to U.S. residency.

Sociocultural Dynamics

Cultural Expectations and Adaptations Required by Filipinas and Their American Spouses

Cultural expectations and the necessary adaptations for both Filipinas and their American spouses form a crucial part of the sociocultural dynamics in transnational marriages. For Filipinas, adapting to life in the U.S. involves navigating a new cultural landscape, which includes understanding American social norms, language nuances, and lifestyle differences. This transition is often complicated by the expectations placed upon them to retain their cultural identity while also assimilating into American society. Common expectations might include maintaining Filipino cooking traditions, upholding specific family values, and sometimes managing the caregiving roles for both their nuclear and extended families across borders.

American spouses, on the other hand, must adapt to the Filipino cultural nuances that their partners bring into their lives. This might involve understanding Filipino family dynamics, where extended family often plays a significant role, and participating in Filipino community events and traditions. For many American spouses, this can be a profound learning

experience, demanding an openness to cultural exchange and often a reevaluation of their cultural assumptions and biases.

The Role of Gender and Power Dynamics within These Marriages

Gender and power dynamics are pivotal in shaping the experiences of Filipina women in transnational marriages. Traditionally, these dynamics can be influenced by the often patriarchal nature of both Filipino and American societies. However, the nuances can vary significantly; for instance, Filipina women may be seen as the nurturers and caregivers, which aligns with traditional Filipino values but might also experience a shift in role when they gain economic power through employment in the U.S.

Moreover, the dependency on their American spouse for legal status in the U.S. can create an imbalance, making it difficult for some women to negotiate power within the relationship. This dependency can lead to situations where the Filipina may feel less empowered to make decisions or express dissent. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for addressing issues related to marital satisfaction, personal autonomy, and equality.

Social Networks and Community Support for Filipina Immigrants

Community support plays a critical role in the integration of Filipina immigrants into American society. Filipino communities in the U.S. are often tight-knit, providing a sense of belonging and a cultural bridge for new immigrants. These communities offer social networks that help new arrivals navigate their new environment, from finding employment and housing to understanding legal and educational systems.

Community organizations often host cultural events, language classes, and support groups that help preserve Filipino culture while also supporting assimilation into American life. These networks can also be crucial in providing emotional support, as they offer a platform for sharing experiences and challenges that might be unique to the immigrant

experience, such as dealing with homesickness, cultural identity crises, or familial obligations across continents.

Additionally, churches and religious groups play a significant part in community support, as many Filipinos are deeply religious. These religious settings not only offer spiritual comfort but also act as social hubs where Filipinas can meet and support each other.

In summary, the sociocultural dynamics of Filipina to U.S. marriage migration encompass a complex interplay of cultural adaptation, gender and power relations, and the pivotal role of community support. Each of these aspects contributes to how these transnational marriages function and evolve, influencing the wellbeing and identity of those involved.

Economic Implications

Economic Benefits and Constraints in Marriage Migrations

Marriage migration offers various economic benefits and constraints for Filipina women and their families. One of the primary benefits is the potential for an improved standard of living due to the higher economic status often associated with living in the United States. This includes access to better healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. For many Filipinas, marrying an American and moving to the U.S. represents not only a personal opportunity but also a strategy to enhance the economic well-being of their family through remittances sent back home.

However, these migrations also come with significant constraints. Initially, the migrating spouse may face legal restrictions on employment, depending on their visa status. Even when legally permitted to work, Filipinas may encounter barriers such as language differences, recognition of qualifications, and cultural biases in the workplace. Additionally, the

economic dependency on their spouse until they can achieve financial independence can place them in a vulnerable position, potentially affecting their bargaining power within the household and their ability to make autonomous decisions.

Discussion of Dependency, Economic Mobility, and Employment Challenges

Dependency is a critical aspect of the economic implications of marriage migration. For many Filipina immigrants, their initial status in the U.S. is tied to their American spouse, who sponsors their visa. This dependency can limit their economic mobility, particularly if the marriage encounters problems or if the spouse is controlling or abusive. Economic mobility for these women is further complicated by challenges in securing employment that matches their skills and education levels.

The employment challenges faced by Filipina immigrants are multifaceted. Even those who are highly educated may find it difficult to get their credentials recognized. Others may need to take lower-paying jobs than they are qualified for or jobs that do not fully utilize their skills, which can lead to underemployment. Navigating these employment barriers is crucial for achieving economic independence and stability.

Impact of These Migrations on the Philippine Economy through Remittances

Remittances sent home by Filipinas living in the U.S. are a significant aspect of the Philippines' economy. These remittances contribute billions of dollars annually, supporting not only the immediate families of the migrants but also bolstering the national economy at large. This flow of money can lead to improved living standards for families in the Philippines, greater educational opportunities for children, and sometimes investment in local businesses and property.

However, while beneficial, remittances can also have complex effects on the Philippine economy. They can lead to dependency on overseas money, potentially discouraging local employment and investment in some regions. Additionally, the "brain drain" phenomenon, where educated and skilled individuals leave the country, can deplete the local workforce of vital human capital, which might otherwise contribute to the domestic economy.

Overall, the economic implications of Filipina to U.S. marriage migrations are profound, impacting not only the individuals and families directly involved but also broader economic patterns both in the U.S. and the Philippines. Understanding these economic dimensions is essential for policymakers and stakeholders in crafting responses that maximize benefits and minimize constraints associated with these migrations.

Critiques and Concerns

Analysis of Power Imbalances and Potential Exploitation

One of the primary critiques of Filipina to U.S. marriage migration revolves around the inherent power imbalances that can arise between the Filipina spouse and her American partner. These imbalances stem from several factors including economic dependency, immigration status, cultural differences, and social isolation. The American spouse often holds significant control over the Filipina's ability to remain in the United States legally, which can make her vulnerable to exploitation. This situation can lead to abusive relationships where the Filipina may feel compelled to stay with her spouse due to fear of deportation or losing residency rights.

Additionally, the economic disparity between the U.S. and the Philippines can create a dynamic where the Filipina might be perceived as economically motivated to marry, which can further skew power dynamics in favor of the American spouse. This perception can lead to unequal treatment within the

relationship, where the Filipina's needs and rights are subordinated to those of her spouse.

Ethical Considerations and Human Rights Issues

Ethical considerations and human rights issues are deeply intertwined with the practice of transnational marriage migration. Key concerns include the potential for human trafficking, where women are misled about the nature of their future marriage and living conditions, or worse, coerced into moving to the U.S. under false pretenses. The international matchmaking industry, which often facilitates these marriages, can sometimes blur the lines between consensual matchmaking and exploitative practices.

There are also significant concerns regarding the consent and autonomy of Filipina women in these marriages. Questions arise about the extent to which their consent to marry and migrate is influenced by economic pressures and limited opportunities at home, potentially compromising their ability to make fully free and informed decisions.

Comparison with Indentured Servitude: Myths and Realities

The comparison of marriage migration to indentured servitude is provocative and controversial but highlights important aspects of the vulnerabilities these women might face. Indentured servitude historically involved working under a contract for a specific number of years in exchange for transportation, food, clothing, lodging, and other necessities. Similarly, critics argue that some marriage migrations might involve an implicit or explicit expectation for the Filipina to "repay" the opportunity to migrate through domestic and marital services.

However, equating marriage migration directly with indentured servitude can be misleading and does not fully account for the agency many women exhibit in their choices. Many Filipina women actively choose to marry and migrate for complex reasons, including love, partnership, and better opportunities, and are not merely passive recipients of their circumstances.

The reality is often a blend of agency and constraints, where women navigate their new lives with varying degrees of independence and challenge.

Overall, addressing these critiques and concerns requires careful consideration of both the vulnerabilities and the strengths of Filipina women engaged in marriage migration. Ensuring protections for their rights, providing them with resources to achieve economic and social independence, and respecting their choices are essential steps toward ethical and humane treatment in transnational marriages.

Personal Agency and Intermarriage Dynamics

Exploration of the Concept of "It Takes Two to Tango" in the Context of These Marriages

The phrase "it takes two to tango" aptly captures the reciprocal nature of any partnership, emphasizing that both parties in a marriage contribute to its dynamics, challenges, and successes. In the context of Filipina to U.S. marriage migration, this concept underscores the importance of recognizing the mutual engagement and effort required to navigate the complexities of a transnational marriage. Both the Filipina woman and her American spouse bring their own cultural backgrounds, expectations, and personal goals into the marriage, which must be harmonized to create a balanced and healthy relationship.

This mutual participation is essential in overcoming cultural differences and adapting to new roles and expectations. The success of these marriages often hinges on the couple's ability to communicate effectively, respect each other's perspectives, and negotiate their different needs and desires. Recognizing that both partners are active participants can also challenge

the often simplistic narratives of victimhood or exploitation, presenting a more nuanced view of these cross-cultural unions.

Agency and Choices of Filipina Women in These Relationships

The agency of Filipina women in these marriages is a critical element that varies greatly depending on individual circumstances. While it is true that economic and familial pressures can influence their decisions to enter into these marriages, many Filipina women also exhibit considerable agency in their choices. They strategically use marriage as a tool for migration, seeking not only personal and familial economic improvement but also valuing the emotional and relational aspects of their marriages.

Their agency is reflected in how they navigate their new environments, form connections within their communities, and sometimes become the primary breadwinners for their families back in the Philippines. Additionally, Filipina women often actively work to bridge cultural gaps between their American spouses and their own cultural practices, demonstrating resilience and adaptability.

Adjustment and Negotiation Strategies by Couples

Adjustment and negotiation within transnational marriages involve a continuous process of learning and adaptation. Couples must often negotiate lifestyle choices, parenting methods, and financial decisions, all of which can be influenced by their differing cultural backgrounds.

1. **Communication**: Effective communication is crucial. Couples must develop an understanding of each other's communication styles, which may be influenced by cultural norms about directness, emotional expression, and respect for authority.
2. **Cultural Integration**: Successful couples often embrace elements from both cultures. This might involve celebrating holidays from both the U.S. and the Philippines, incorporating foods from both cuisines at home, and participating in community events.

3. **Support Networks**: Building a support network of other binational couples can provide vital resources and guidance. These networks can offer advice based on shared experiences and provide emotional support through the challenges of cultural adjustment.
4. **Educational and Professional Growth**: Encouraging and supporting each other's educational and professional development can also be a significant part of the adjustment strategy, helping to balance power dynamics and enhance mutual respect.

Overall, the dynamics of personal agency and intermarriage negotiation reveal that these marriages are not just unions of individuals from two different worlds but are active partnerships where both individuals continuously engage in making decisions that shape their shared lives. Understanding these dynamics is key to appreciating the complexity and richness of Filipina-American marriages.

Conclusion

Summary of Key Findings

This paper has explored the multifaceted dynamics of Filipina to U.S. marriage migration, revealing a complex interplay of economic, legal, sociocultural, and personal factors. Key findings include:

1. **Economic Motivations and Benefits**: Economic considerations are a primary driver for many Filipina women, with the migration offering prospects for improved living standards and significant financial support for families back in the Philippines through remittances.
2. **Legal Frameworks and Challenges**: The legal processes involved in marriage-based immigration to the U.S. are stringent, with several hurdles that couples must navigate, including proving the legitimacy of their marriage and meeting financial requirements. These legal

aspects often place the Filipina spouse in a vulnerable position of dependency on their American partner.

3. **Cultural and Social Adjustments**: Cultural adaptation is critical for both spouses. Filipina women often face significant adjustments and potential social isolation, whereas American spouses need to understand and integrate aspects of Filipino culture to help bridge cultural divides.
4. **Agency and Negotiation in Relationships**: Despite potential power imbalances, many Filipina women exhibit agency in their choices and actively negotiate their roles within their marriages, often effectively managing both their new and natal cultural identities.
5. **Support Networks**: Community support plays a crucial role in the successful adaptation of Filipina immigrants, providing a buffer against the challenges of migration and cultural adjustment.

Implications for Policy and Future Research

The findings of this study have several implications for both policy and future research:

- **Policy Recommendations**: Policies should focus on providing greater support for integrating immigrants, such as language training and employment assistance that recognizes foreign qualifications. Immigration policies could also be revised to reduce the dependency of immigrant spouses on their American partners, potentially by providing independent pathways to residency and citizenship.
- **Research Directions**: Future research could explore longitudinal outcomes of these marriages to better understand how cultural, economic, and personal dynamics evolve over time. Studies could also examine the children of such unions to assess how they navigate their mixed cultural identities. Additionally, comparative studies with other migrant groups could highlight unique and common challenges faced by marriage migrants.

Final Thoughts on the Complexities of Filipina to U.S. Marriage Migration

Filipina to U.S. marriage migration is not merely a movement from one country to another but a profound life transition that involves significant emotional, cultural, and economic changes. These migrations are deeply embedded in global socio-economic structures and personal aspirations, reflecting both the challenges and opportunities of our increasingly interconnected world. Understanding these migrations requires a nuanced approach that considers the agency of the migrating women, the roles of their spouses, and the broader socio-economic contexts that frame their lives.

This complex tapestry of factors illustrates that while such marriages can offer substantial opportunities for Filipina women, they also come with considerable challenges. Addressing these complexities in a thoughtful and comprehensive manner is essential for crafting policies and support systems that enhance the benefits while mitigating the difficulties associated with Filipina to U.S. marriage migration.

References

To ensure a comprehensive and credible academic paper on the topic of Filipina to U.S. marriage migration, it's essential to include a detailed list of references. Here's a hypothetical compilation of sources that might be included, covering academic research, legal documents, and pertinent articles that inform the discourse on this subject:

1. Constable, Nicole. *Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and "Mail Order" Marriages*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003. This book provides a deep dive into the complexities of transnational marriages, focusing on the social and cultural dynamics at play.
2. Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar. *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2001. Parreñas discusses the migration of Filipino domestic workers, which, while not directly focused on marriage, provides context on the larger patterns of female migration from the Philippines.
3. Faier, Lieba. *Intimate Encounters: Filipina Women and the Remaking of Rural Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009. This book offers insights into how Filipina women adapt to and impact their new cultural surroundings, relevant for understanding similar adaptations in the U.S.
4. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). "Green Card for a Spouse of a U.S. Citizen." Accessed April 15, 2024. https://www.uscis.gov/greencard. This government source provides official information on the legal procedures for obtaining residency through marriage.
5. Aguilar, Filomeno V., Jr. "The Triumph of Instrumental Citizenship? Migrations, Identities, and the Politics of Exclusion in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries." *Citizenship Studies* 13, no. 3 (2009): 241-253. Discusses broader themes of migration and citizenship,

which can be extrapolated to the specific context of Filipina-U.S. marriages.
6. Hochschild, Arlie Russell. *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012. Provides theoretical background on emotional labor that can be applied to understanding marriage migrations.
7. Tyner, James A. "The Geopolitics of Eugenics and the Exclusion of Philippine Immigrants from the United States." *The Geographical Review* 89, no. 1 (1999): 54-73. Historical context on early Filipino migrations to the U.S. and the legal barriers encountered.
8. Philippine Statistics Authority. "Annual Report of Filipino Beneficiaries of Remittances." Manila, 2023. This source would offer quantitative data on the economic impact of remittances from Filipinas in the U.S. to the Philippines.
9. U.S. Department of State. "Nonimmigrant Visa for a Fiancé(e) (K-1)." Accessed April 15, 2024. https://travel.state.gov. Key source for understanding the specific visa process for fiancé(e)s.
10. Go, Julian, and Anne L. Foster, eds. *The American Colonial State in the Philippines: Global Perspectives*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2003. Provides historical insights into the American colonization of the Philippines, helping to frame the long-term socio-cultural relationships between the two nations.

This list is not exhaustive but illustrates the type of sources needed to adequately support a scholarly discussion on Filipina to U.S. marriage migration. Each source contributes a different piece of the puzzle, from legal frameworks and historical context to personal experiences and broader socio-economic analyses.